

How do I provide constructive criticism to teach my child to behave properly?

Constructive criticism is an important tool for teaching your children to change misbehavior and understand consequences of their poor decisions. It is important to consider your own feelings as well as your children's feelings when criticizing a certain behavior. This will prevent the discussion from causing more problems than solutions.

Think about what you want to teach your children first and be clear about what you want them to learn from the conversation. If you are not clear and direct, you will do nothing positive for your children, and your children will not change their behavior in the future. Remember, your goal with criticism is to educate, not to punish or embarrass your children.

Pay close attention to your tone of voice, mood and language when discussing behavioral issues with your children. Make sure you are not too angry or threatening, this will stop the discussion from being constructive. Start the conversation with any positive aspects of the behavior to reassure your children that you notice their good choices as much as their bad choices.

Carefully choose the time and place to discuss important issues with your child. Try to avoid discussing issues in front of friends or extended family members. Allow your child to feel comfortable about the topic by providing privacy when discussing the situation. Give your child specific examples of their poor behavior and illustrate the way you want your children to behave in the future.